

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A method for aiding product life cycle planning, comprising:

setting a threshold value concerning reuse of parts with respect to cost and environment;

reading cost of parts and environment load information from a database;

displaying parts on a map displayed on a display device and divided into a plurality of domains based on the threshold;

selecting reuse candidate parts from the displayed parts with reference to the displayed map;

calculating a useful life based condition formula expressed as follows:

$$\min \{la^{\sim i}, lr^{\sim i}\} \leq la^{\sim j} - \min \{la^{\sim i}, lr^{\sim i}\}$$

where  $la^{\sim i}$  is a useful life time of product  $i'$ ,  $lr^{\sim i}$  is a worth life time of product  $i'$ ,  $la^{\sim j}$  is a useful life time of part  $j$ , and  $lr^{\sim j}$  is a worth life time of part  $j$ ,

determining whether the useful life based condition formula is satisfied;

determining possibility of reuse with respect to the reuse candidate parts when the useful life based condition formula is satisfied;

calculating a worth life time based condition formula expressed as follows:

$$tL^i + tP^i + \min \{la^{\sim i}, lr^{\sim i}\} \leq lr^{\sim j}$$

where  $tL^i$  is a time lag of product  $i'$ , and  $tP^i$  is a production period of product  $i'$ ,  $la^{\sim i}$  is a useful life time of product  $i'$ ,  $lr^{\sim i}$  is a worth life time of product  $i'$ , and  $lr^{\sim j}$  is a worth life time of part  $j$ ,

determining whether the worth life time based condition formula is satisfied; and  
determining possibility of reuse with respect to the reuse candidate parts when the  
worth life time based condition formula is satisfied;

calculating a recovery quantity based condition formula expressed as follows:

$$\min \{la^{\sim i'}, lr^{\sim i'}\} < tL^{i'} + \alpha tP^{i'}$$

where  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ ,  $la^{\sim i'}$  is a useful life time of product  $i'$ ,  $lr^{\sim i'}$  is a worth life time of  
product  $i'$ ,  $tL^{i'}$  is a time lag of product  $i'$ , and  $tP^{i'}$  is a production period of product  $i'$

determining whether the recovery quantity based condition formula is satisfied;

[[and]]

determining on a computer possibility of reuse with respect to the reuse candidate  
parts when the recovery quantity based condition formula is satisfied;and  
displaying the determination of possibility of reuse with respect to reuse of candidate  
parts.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 26, wherein the  
map is divided into four domains: a domain where reuse should be actively examined, a  
domain where reuse should be fairly actively examined, a domain which fails to be suitable  
for reuse and a domain where reuse is examined.

Claims 28-29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): An apparatus of aiding product life cycle planning,  
comprising:

an input device configured to set a threshold value concerning reuse of parts with  
respect to cost and environment;

a reading device configured to read cost of parts and environment load information from a database;

a display device configured to display parts on a map divided into a plurality of domains based on the threshold;

a selecting device configured to select reuse candidate parts from the displayed parts with reference to the displayed map;

a computing device configured to calculate a useful life based condition formula expressed as follows:

$$\min \{la^{i'}, lr^{i'}\} \leq la^{j'} - \min \{la^{i'}, lr^{i'}\}$$

where  $la^{i'}$  is a useful life time of product  $i'$ ,  $lr^{i'}$  is a worth life time of product  $i'$ ,  $la^{j'}$  is a useful life time of part  $j$ , and  $lr^{j'}$  is a worth life time of part  $j$ ,

a first determining unit configured to determine whether the useful life based condition formula is satisfied;

a second determining unit configured to determine possibility of reuse with respect to the reuse candidate parts when the useful life based condition formula is satisfied;

the computing device calculates a worth life time based condition formula expressed as follows:

$$tL^{i'} + tP^{i'} + \min \{la^{i'}, lr^{i'}\} \leq lr^{j'}$$

where  $tL^{i'}$  is a time lag of product  $i'$ , and  $tP^{i'}$  is a production period of product  $i'$ ,  $la^{i'}$  is a useful life time of product  $i'$ ,  $lr^{i'}$  is a worth life time of product  $i'$ , and  $lr^{j'}$  is a worth life time of part  $j$ ,

the first determining unit determines whether the worth life time based condition formula is satisfied; and

the second determining unit determines possibility of reuse with respect to the reuse candidate parts when the worth life time based condition formula is satisfied;

the computing unit calculates a recovery quantity based condition formula expressed as follows:

$$\min \{la^{-i'}, lr^{-i'}\} < tL^{i'} + \alpha tP^{i'}$$

where  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ ,  $la^{-i'}$  is a useful life time of product  $i'$ ,  $lr^{-i'}$  is a worth life time of product  $i'$ ,  $tL^{i'}$  is a time lag of product  $i'$ , and  $tP^{i'}$  is a production period of product  $i'$ ;

the first determining unit determines whether the worth life time based condition formula is satisfied; and

the second determining unit determines possibility of reuse with respect to the reuse candidate parts when the recovery quantity based condition formula is satisfied.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the map is divided into four domains: a domain, where reuse should be actively examined, a domain where reuse should be fairly actively examined, a domain which fails to be suitable for reuse and a domain where reuse is examined.

Claims 32 and 33 (Canceled).

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): A computer readable recording medium containing a computer program to aide product life cycle planning, the program comprising instructions to:

set a threshold value concerning reuse of parts with respect to cost and environment;  
read cost of parts and environment load information from a database;  
display parts on a map divided into a plurality of domains based on the threshold;  
receive a selection of reuse candidate parts from the displayed parts with reference to the displayed map;

calculate a useful life based condition formula expressed as follows:

$$\min \{la^{\sim i}, lr^{\sim i}\} \leq la^{\sim j} - \min \{la^{\sim i}, lr^{\sim i}\}$$

where  $la^{\sim i}$  is a useful life time of product  $i'$ ,  $lr^{\sim i}$  is a worth life time of product  $i'$ ,  $la^{\sim j}$  is a useful life time of part  $j$ , and  $lr^{\sim j}$  is a worth life time of part  $j$ ,

determine whether the useful life based condition formula is satisfied; and

determine possibility of reuse with respect to the reuse candidate parts when the useful life based condition formula is satisfied;

calculate a worth life time based condition formula expressed as follows:

$$tL^i + tP^i + \min \{la^{\sim i}, lr^{\sim i}\} \leq lr^{\sim j}$$

where  $tL^i$  is a time lag of product  $i'$ , and  $tP^i$  is a production period of product  $i'$ ,  $la^{\sim i}$  is a useful life time of product  $i'$ ,  $lr^{\sim i}$  is a worth life time of product  $i'$ , and  $lr^{\sim j}$  is a worth life time of part  $j$ ,

determine whether the useful life based condition formula is satisfied;

determine possibility of reuse with respect to the reuse candidate parts when the useful life based condition formula is satisfied;

calculate a recovery quantity based condition formula expressed as follows:

$$\min \{la^{\sim i}, lr^{\sim i}\} < tL^i + \alpha tP^i$$

where  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ ,  $la^{\sim i}$  is a useful life time of product  $i'$ ,  $lr^{\sim i}$  is a worth life time of product  $i'$ ,  $tL^i$  is a time lag of product  $i'$ , and  $tP^i$  is a production period of product  $i'$ ;

determine whether the worth life time based condition formulation is satisfied; and

determine possibility of reuse with respect to the reuse candidate parts when the recovery quantity based condition formula is satisfied.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The program according to Claim 34, wherein the map is divided into four domains: a domain where reuse should be actively examined, a

\*Application No. 09/818,612  
Reply to Office Action of July 26, 2006

domain where reuse should be fairly actively examined, a domain which fails to be suitable for reuse and a domain where reuse is examined.

Claims 36 and 37 (Canceled).